

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 8**  
**INCIDENT NO. 96-01**  
**DATE: April 16, 1996                      TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding flooding in the rest of the state, incident #96-37.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake on April 15 ,1996, was 1435.52 feet M.S.L.

In Nelson County, overland flooding and Sheyenne River flooding is impacting the transportation system. Nelson County officials report 14 township and county roads have been washed out while an additional 15 roads have water flowing over them.

A basement wall of a home in Lakota collapsed due to hydrostatic pressure.

Woodland Resort on Devils Lake has been closed because lake levels have made the sewage lift station inoperable.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: In Ramsey County, individuals are pumping ditches in an attempt to prevent road damage.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On April 15, 1996, the Governor issued a statewide flood emergency declaration.

A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, April 10, 1996.

State and local officials have determined lake level elevations for each year- around household in Benson and Ramsey counties near the lake. Local, state and federal officials have strongly encouraged people at or below 1438 feet M.S.L. who live in mobile homes to move them. Those in permanent homes are being strongly urged to purchase flood insurance.

The Guard is pumping water which is threatening the rifle and small arms range west of ND Highway 57.

Lake Region District Health is providing technical advice to people who are moving homes and other property and has provided information on well capping.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe on a protective measure for the St. Michael sewage lagoon.

Counties are implementing weight limits on roads.

Three Nelson County farm families have temporarily relocated due to water in their basements and washed out access roads.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is developing an exception to the Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP). The exception is designed to ensure that placement of relocated structures are protected from future flood damage at Devils Lake. Each SFIP needs to be looked at individually in order to determine eligibility. The details of the liberalized procedure are being worked out by FEMA, congressional staff, state, and local officials.

The North Central Planning Council received 25 applications for temporary diking projects since April 1, 1996. North Central is also assisting state officials in identifying water storage projects.

ND Game and Fish Department will raise the boat landings at East Bay and Six Mile Bay on Devils Lake from 1438 M.S.L. to 1440 M.S.L.. They are delaying placing spawning nets into Devils Lake due to high water and the late snow melt. The delay is expected to be about two weeks.

Through the Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP), 98 applications with a potential for nearly 15,000 acre feet of upper Devils Lake basin storage have been received. Wet and frozen soil conditions and logistics of implementation will dictate the number of sites that will be in place in 1996. Implementation will continue this summer and fall for effect in 1997. Eleven contracts have been approved and structures constructed allowing for 1,500 acre feet of storage. Efforts from state and local officials including program promotion, deadline extension, and lake level projections are encouraging program participation. State Water Commission Construction crews are working on structures to provide upper basin storage in the Devils Lake area.

ND Parks and Recreation Department is assessing what actions are most prudent concerning the bait shop at Graham's Island State Park. The bait shop is threatened by the high lake level projections.

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program has approved funding for the HARMS radio system which ND DOT will install to warn motorists of high water traffic hazards on lake region highways.

ND Department of Transportation will place concrete barriers on the west side of ND Highway 57 at the Narrows after the ice is out. Permanent road closure gates will be placed on the north and south end of the Narrows portion of ND Highway 57 and 20. Advance warning signs will be placed on ND Highways 20 and 57 to provide plenty of advanced warning for motorists when roads are closed.

The bridge structure on ND Highway 19 over the Mauvais Coulee is scheduled to be replaced.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Ramsey County officials report Devils Lake remains covered with about 30 inches of ice.

The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held , April 25, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center Meetings are currently scheduled for every two weeks.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas C. Friez, State Director